

Owings Farmstead

CT-1298

9905 Old Solomon's Island Road, Owings (Calvert County)

1890, private access

The Owings farmstead, with buildings constructed between 1890 and 1897, is placed within a rural setting, near the central area of Owings. The farmstead's central feature is a square-shaped house, which served as the primary residence, as well as several mixed-use agricultural structures. The buildings are set within a larger historic farmstead. The Owings Farmstead is significant for its association with Thomas Owings and the Owings family, who played an important role in the settlement of Owings.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1298

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Owings Farmstead

other Wilson House

2. Location

street and number 9905 Old Solomons Island Road not for publication

city, town Owings ☒ vicinity

county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert O. and Katherine Wilson

street and number 9905 Old Solomons Road telephone

city, town Owings state MD zip code 20736

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio

city, town tax map tax parcel tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: Calvert Co. Historical Society

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>5</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>5</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			<u>0</u>	

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Owings farmstead, with buildings constructed between 1890 and 1897, is placed within a rural setting, near the central area of Owings. The farmstead's central feature is a square-shaped house, which served as the primary residence, as well as several mixed-use agricultural structures. The buildings are set within a larger historic farmstead.

The residence is a two story square-shaped house clad in aluminum siding with a masonry foundation. The house which was originally L-shape in plan, consisting of a main block and a rear ell; later additions were made to the inside of the ell. The main block is three bays wide with a side gable roof. A perpendicular cross gable extends from the ridge line of the front section toward the rear of the house in the eastern bay. The roof features a slight overhang that has been covered with replacement siding. The building has two brick chimneys with corbelled ends which project from the ridgeline on either side of the center bay of the main block.

The primary facade faces north has openings arranged symmetrically about the center, including a peaked cross gable in the central bay. This gable features a vertically-divided lancet window, and lends a sense of verticality to the otherwise horizontal orientation of the building. The second story has three symmetrically-placed 2/2 wood sash windows, each flanked by replacement shutters. The first story has a central entrance with sidelights flanked on both sides by 2/2 wood sash windows. The facade has an open-frame hipped roof porch, with scrolled replacement metal supports, wood flooring, and partial screening. The porch continues on the east elevation.

The eastern elevation is divided into two sections; the northern section features a gable end in the roof line. The second story has a pair of 2/2 wood sash windows, one set centrally beneath the end gable peak. Each window has replacement shutters. The first story demonstrates an asymmetrical fenestration, with a 2/2 wood sash window underneath the north end gable peak and a pair of 2/2 wood sash windows flanking a doorway on southern end. A one story, shed roof addition was attached to the south façade of the house, with its eastern side aligned with the east façade of the main house. The addition has a single 2/2 wood sash window with replacement shutters, flanked on the south by a solid door entrance.

The southern elevation displays a "salt box" roof form, with an asymmetrical end gable set to the east, featuring a steep eastern pitch, with a low pitch extending to the west. The slope of the western facade roof forms a central "V." The second story has a single 2/2 wood sash window, with replacement shutters, set to the west, and mirrored by a 2/2 wood sash window set beneath on the first story. The one-story shed roof addition displays a symmetrical pair of fixed 4 pane square windows.

The western elevation has an asymmetrical roof form and fenestration. The end gable of the I-house portion, unlike the eastern facade, has a "salt box" form with an asymmetrical gable peak set to the north, with a steep pitch to the north and a low pitch extending to the south. The low pitch portion of the second story has a pair of 2/2 wood sash windows, with replacement shutters, which is mirrored on the first story. The steep pitch portion of the second story features a single 2/2 wood sash window, with replacement shutters, which are mirrored on the first story.

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A small, square outbuilding is set directly to the south of the primary residence, with a pyramidal roof form, vertical wood siding, and an open entrance on the eastern facade. It was used as the engine house or lighting plant, and then used as a smoke house after the farm was converted to the Baltimore Gas & Electric Grid.

A small rectangular outbuilding, featuring wood clapboard siding, is set upon a concrete foundation directly to the east of the primary residence. The side gable building has a central masonry chimney set along the ridgeline. The primary western facade has a six paneled solid wood door set above a single concrete block set, placed to the north, and flanked to the south by a 2/2 wood sash window. The north and south elevations feature a single central 2/2 wood sash window beneath the gable peak. The window on the northern facade is obscured by plywood cover. The western elevation features a matching pair of 2/2 wood sash windows. This building was relocated a couple of hundred yards uphill and used for storage.

Two large barns, originally associated with the farm, are now on a separate parcel.

A large barn is set to the east of the primary residence along a treeline indicating a property boundary. The one and a half story building has vertical wood siding and a gable front roof form flanked by an extensive shed roof portion. The barn has a complex roof form and asymmetrical form, with a medium pitch extending to the south, and a medium pitch extending to the north, which is interrupted by a low pitch roof. The building does not feature ventilation and features a solid wood door entrance to the north.

A large two story barn is set to the south of the primary residence, and has a side gable roof form, and vertical wood siding. The building has lofting and a pair of large rectangular entrances, symmetrically placed on the northern facade.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates circa 1870

Architect/Builder Henry Owings

Construction dates circa 1870

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Owings Farmstead is significant for its association with Thomas Owings and the Owings family, who played an important role in the settlement of Owings. In addition, the Owings Farmstead is a representative example of folk Victorian architecture, and serves as a visual example of a nineteenth century agricultural farmstead.

The Owings Farmstead's primary residence appears to have been originally constructed circa 1870 as an L shaped house, with a series of additions undertaken in the early twentieth century, including two rear "salt box" additions and a one story shed roof rear addition. More recent alterations include the replacement porch piers and the covering of wood siding with aluminum.

Although subsequent additions have created a more complex building, the primary residence has distinguishable portions of an original L-shaped house form. An early form of demonstrating wealth and local prominence was the construction of an expansive farm house, and so it was an obvious choice for the Owings family. In the Upland South in particular, an I-House was a visible symbol of financial success. The I-house is considered a dominant building form in rural areas. Primary characteristics include an end-gabled roof, a minimum length of two rooms with a depth of one room, and two stories in height.¹

Although the primary residence of the Owings Farmstead has a basic L-shaped form, it has experienced multiple additions, within its period of significance, and could be defined as a Folk Victorian house. Such houses often feature Italianate or Queen Anne detailing, but also, as in this example, Gothic Revival forms.

The Owings family served, over several generations dating to the early eighteenth century, as agricultural leaders, real estate brokers, merchants, tradesmen, manufacturers and were also responsible for the development of the nearby North Beach / Chesapeake Beach summer resort, and had been present in Maryland since the early eighteenth century. The family was instrumental in the planning for the Chesapeake Railroad, and was among the first in the county to export canned goods by train. In 1859, Samuel Owings (and his brother, Henry Owings) each purchased shares for the Maryland Agricultural College, which was chartered in 1856 and is now

¹ Kniffen, Fred, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion" in Upton & Vlach Eds. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. (University of Georgia Press: Athens) 1986. 8

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the University of Maryland. The contribution was part of the charter, which required that Maryland farmers raise \$50,000 for the College. According to George Callcott, former Assistant Professor of History at the University, the Owings' gift of \$200 "was one of the larger ones to the College." Their names, along with the other original stockholders, appear today on the Founders Gate in front of the University of Maryland in College Park.²

According to Stine's *History of Calvert County*, Henry Owings was listed as one of 11 landowners in the county with sizable plantations and who owned more than fifty slaves. "Henry Owings of S" as he called himself, also served as in the State Legislature in 1870 as a Democrat.

Harry P. Owings, who occupied a nearby farmstead, was a particularly influential member of the Owings family, and served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates as a Democrat in 1888 and 1889. In the early 1890s, Harry P. Owings was active in the wholesale and retail grocery business in Baltimore, but shortly returned to his home to continue farming and serve as a real estate developer. Harry P. Owings served as the first station agent for Chesapeake Beach Railroad. Harry P. Owings' role as a real estate developer was tied to his role in the development and construction of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad. Owings subdivided and sold much of the current settlement of Owings following the establishment of the railroad. David Moffat, the president of the Railroad, changed the name of the town's railroad station from Friendship to Owings (which subsequently became the name of the settlement) in honor of Henry Owings. In addition, Owings played an important role in the establishment of a branch of the Eastern Shore Trust Company bank in Owings, and served as vice-president of the local bank.

Harry P. Owings served as a sales agent in the county for lime, fertilizer, coal, and corrugated (metal) roofing. The Owings railroad stop was one (or the only) in the county during the early era of railroad travel. Mail and freight arrived at the Owings station for county residents unless otherwise marked. The Owings family played an important role in local history, and their influence is directly reflected in the scale of the Owings Farmstead.

George Owings, who built the Owings house, also built a general merchandise store near the railway station. He and his brother John owned a livery stable adjacent to the store. The "drummers," salesmen, would come on the train, and rent a horse and buggy to travel to the local stores in the County. The store closed about 1935 after the railway stopped.

² Calvert County Historical Society Owings family file

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Owings family file, Calvert County Historical Society

Glassie, Henry. *Pattern in the material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States*. (University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia) 1968.

Kniffen, Fred, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion" in Upton & Vlach Eds. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. (University of Georgia Press: Athens) 1986.

Herman, Bernard & Gabrielle Lanier *Everyday Architecture of the Mid Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins) 1997

McAlester, Virginia & Lee *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf) 1989 ed.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property approx. 10 acres

Acreage of historical setting approx. 10 acres

Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the surveyed property is as marked on the USGS map. The existing Parcel is concurrent with the historic setting, and includes character-defining resources and setting which relate to the property's construction and evolution.

11. Form Prepared by

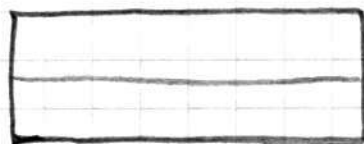
name/title	Caleb Christopher, Architectural Historian, revised by Craig Tuminaro, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3.1.03, 5.11.04
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	301.258.5897
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

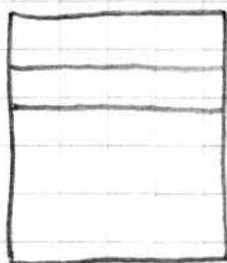
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

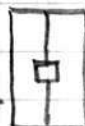
√N



BARN

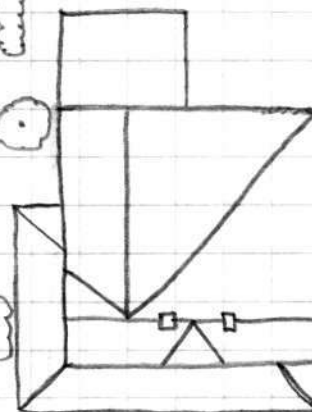


BARN



OUTBUILDING

SMOKE HOUSE



RESIDENCE

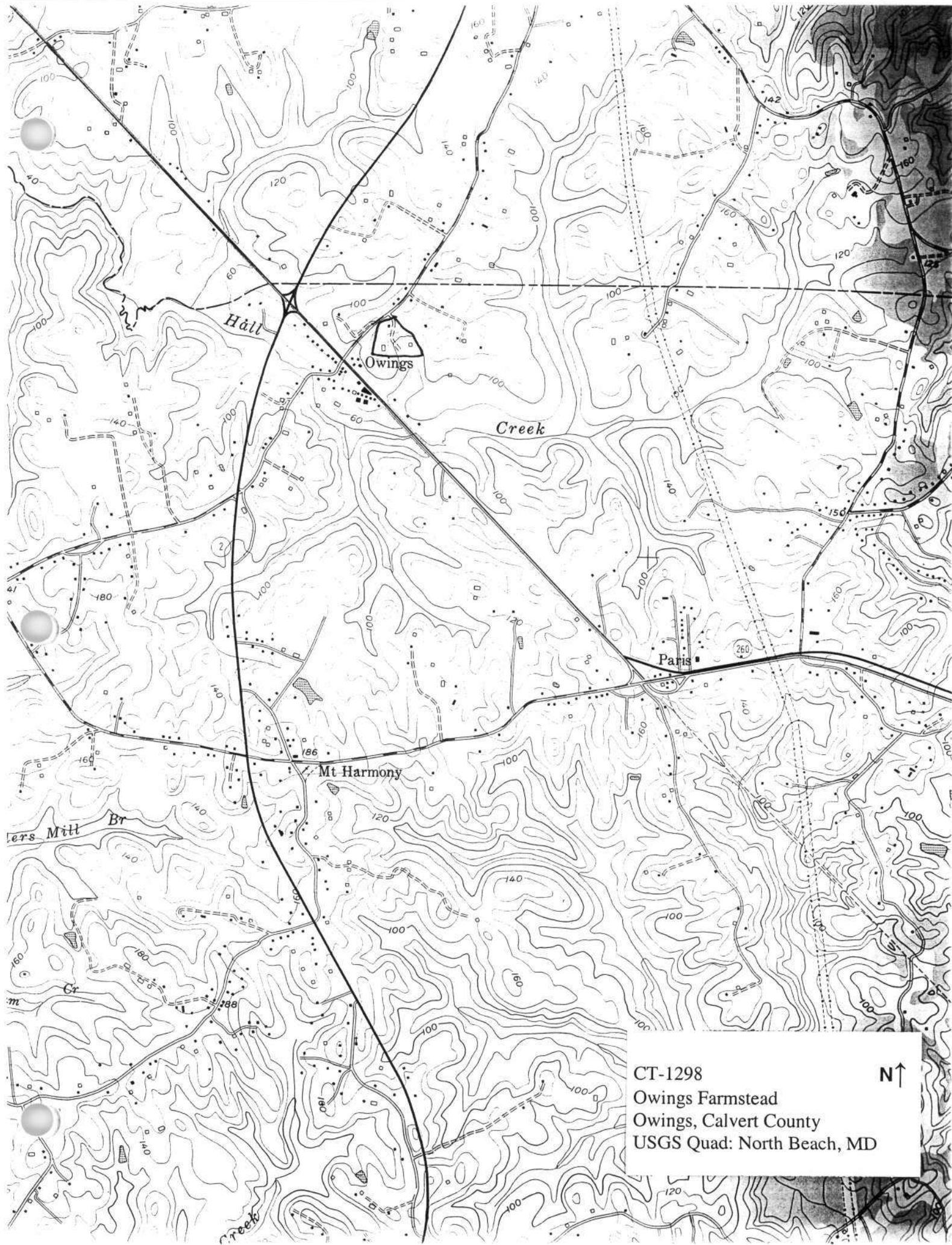
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OWINGS FARMSTEAD

OWINGS, CALVERT COUNTY

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

NOT TO SCALE



CT-1298
Owings Farmstead
Owings, Calvert County
USGS Quad: North Beach, MD



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 1 0062

012

CT-1298
OWINGS FARMSTEAD
CALVERT CO, MD
CALEB CHRISTOPHER
11/2002
NEGATIVE: MD SHPO
NORTH FACADE

#1 of 6
65946



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 1 0062

011

CT-1298

OWINGS FARMSTEAD

CALVERT CO., MD

CALVERT CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

#2 OF 6

65945



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 7 0062

013

CT-1298

OWINGS FARMSTEAD

CAWERT CO., MD

CAWERT CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

3 OF 6

65947



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 4 0062

008

CT-1298

OWINGS FARMSTEAD

CALVERT CO, MD

CALEB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE MD SHPO

OUTBUILDING -

WEST ELEVATION

65942 #4 OF 6



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-24 0062

009

CT- 1298
OWINGS FARMSTEAD
CALVERT CO, MD
CALVERT CHRISTOPHER
NEGATIVE MD SHPO

BARN -
NORTH ELEVATION
5 OF 6

65943



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 1 0062

007

CT-1298

OWWYS FARMSTEAD

CALVERT CO, MD

CHWY CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

BAEN #2

WEST ELEVATION

6 OF 6

65941